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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Ed AUSTIN, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/607,010

Group Art Unit: 3733

FILED: June 26, 2003

EXAMINER: Shaffer, Richard R.

FOR: EXTERNAL FIXATION APPARATUS AND METHOD

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 39262/285776  
(01-31-0780)

DATE: May 11, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND  
PETITION FOR ONE-MONTH TIME EXTENSION**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims and consider the following remarks in response to the Office Action mailed January 11, 2006 (the "Action").

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Petition for One-Month Time Extension** begins on page 15 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 16 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 11, 2006.

*Handwritten signature of Geoffrey K. Gavin*  
Geoffrey K. Gavin - Registration No. 47,591

05/16/2006 ZJUHR1 00000005 10607010  
01 FC:1251 120.00 DP  
02 FC:1201 400.00 DP  
03 FC:1202 250.00 DP